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ALBERTA LEGAL SERVICES MAPPING PROJECT

Action Plan Update

(August 2009)

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Date: July 28, 2009

Action Plan Update

1. Introduction:

In 2006, the Canadian Forum on Civil justice conducted the *Self-Represented Litigant (SRL) Mapping Project*. This Project aimed to gain a better understanding about SRLs in Alberta, what their legal needs are and what resources are available to them. Mapping for this project was conducted in three sites; Grand Prairie, Red Deer and Edmonton. Findings from this Project were strongly indicative of the lack of public understanding of the justice system and the need for easily accessible public legal information. Based on the recommendations from the SRL Mapping Project, Law Information Centres (LInCs) were established in all three jurisdictions.

The findings of the SRL Mapping Project also suggested the importance of extending this research to address the legal service needs of all Albertans. The *Alberta Legal Services Mapping Project* is designed to gain an understanding of the legal needs of Albertans and of the legal services available in Alberta. This project will benefit justice system users, service providers and policy makers. Initial funding for this project has been provided by the Alberta Law Foundation and Alberta Justice.

This project will provide a province-wide 'map' of all legal services that provide to the Alberta public - information, education, legal advice, legal representation, and/or other supports relating to legal problems. The map will extend to civil, family, criminal and administrative justice programs and services. This process will also reveal strengths in current programs on which to build and gaps in services that need to be addressed, in order to improve access to legal services for all Albertans.

2. Project Scope & Goals:

The goals of this Project are to:

1. gather and organize information about existing legal services in each judicial district in Alberta and create a searchable database in which to store and share this information with service providers and the public;
2. identify the demographics for the population in each of the eleven judicial districts, including primary industries and other characteristics which will assist in predicting legal needs;
3. facilitate the development and maintenance of information networks among service providers; and
4. identify both current service strengths and gaps in legal service delivery and resources.

3. Progress Summary

- The Team has completed mapping and data collection in the Calgary Judicial District.
- Initial mapping is complete for the Fort McMurray Judicial District
- Key Contact visit have been conducted in the Fort McMurray Judicial District
- The Calgary District Report has been circulated to partners for review.
- An internal database has been created for data storage and sharing among project partners.
- Data collection has begun in the Fort McMurray District.
- Two members of the Team received advanced qualitative data analysis training in June 2009.
- The Research Coordinator presented at PLENA's annual conference in June 2009

4. Project Stages and Deliverables:

Stage One: Project Direction & Partnership Coordination (4- 6 months)			
Task	Deliverable	Target Completion Date	Achieved
Hire a Research Coordinator	Research Coordinator	September 2007	August 2007

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Task	Deliverable	Target Completion Date	Achieved
Form a team of key justice community stakeholders	Advisory Committee	March 2008	March 2008
Create a Project Plan	Project Action Plan	March 2008	February 2008
Stage Two: Establish Research Team & Design Instruments (4 Months)			
Form Research Team	Hire 3 Research Assistants or Equivalent	April 2008	March 2008
Develop Research Instruments	Instruments for data collection from: - Organizations - Service Users	April 2008	April 2008 Drafts Completed April 2009 all versions finalized
Stage Three: Pilot Project Data Collection (9-12 months)			
Organization Identification	List of Legal Services in Pilot District	April 2008	June 2008
Data Analysis & Reporting	Initial Report on Pilot District	October 2008	October 2008
Database Development	Initial Database with Pilot Data	December 2008	January 2009
Data Analysis & Reporting	Progress Report on Pilot	February 2009	February 2009
Database Development	Database with Pilot Data	May 2009	Began entering data May 2009 - ongoing
Data Assessment & Reporting	Report for Pilot District	June 2009	Initial draft July 6/09
Stage Four: Data Collection in Remaining Judicial Districts (20-24 months)			
Organization & Service Identification for Fort McMurray District	List of legal and related services in Fort McMurray District	May 2009	May 2009
Networking for Fort McMurray District	Key Contacts identification and meetings in Fort McMurray District	May 2009	May 2009
Organization & Service Identification for Lethbridge District	List of legal and related services in Lethbridge District	September 2009	
Networking for Lethbridge District	Key Contacts identification and visits in Lethbridge District	October 2009	

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Task	Deliverable	Target Completion Date	Achieved
Data Collection for Fort McMurray District	Interviewing service providers & members of the public in Fort McMurray District	October 2009	
Data Analysis & Reporting	Progress Report on Districts being Mapped	October 2009	
Organization & Service Identification for Medicine Hat District	List of legal and related services in Medicine Hat District	October 2009	
Networking for Medicine Hat District	Key Contacts identification and visits in Medicine Hat District	November 2009	
Data Collection for Lethbridge District	Interviewing service providers & members of the public in Lethbridge District	November 2009	
Organization & Service Identification for Drumheller District	List of legal and related services in Drumheller District	December 2009	
Data Analysis & Reporting	Report for Fort McMurray District	December 2009	
Data Collection for Medicine Hat District	Interviewing service providers & members of the public in Medicine Hat District	January 2010	
Networking for Drumheller District	Key Contacts identification and visits in Drumheller District	January 2010	
Data Analysis & Reporting	Report for Lethbridge District	February 2010	
Data Analysis & Reporting	Progress Report on Districts being Mapped	February 2010	
Data Collection for Drumheller District	Interviewing service providers and members of the public in Drumheller District	March 2010	
Organization & Service Identification for St Paul District	List of legal and related services in St Paul District	March 2010	
Networking for St Paul District	Key Contacts identification and visits in St Paul District	April 2010	
Data Analysis & Reporting	Report for Medicine Hat District	May 2010	
Organization & Service Identification for Peace River District	List of legal and related services in Peace River District	May 2010	

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Task	Deliverable	Target Completion Date	Achieved
Organization & Service Identification for Peace River	List of legal and related services in Peace River District	May 2010	
Data Collection for St Paul District	Interviewing service providers and members of the public in St Paul District	July 2010	
Data Analysis & Reporting	Report for Drumheller District	July 2010	
Networking for Peace River District	Key Contacts identification and visits in Peace River District	July 2010	
Organization & Service Identification for Grande Prairie District	List of legal and related services in Grande Prairie District	August 2010	
Networking for Grande Prairie District	Key Contacts identification and visits in Grande Prairie District	September 2010	
Data Analysis & Reporting	Report for St Paul District	September 2010	
Data Collection for Peace River District	Interviewing service providers and members of the public in Peace River District	October 2010	
Data Analysis & Reporting	Progress Report on Districts being Mapped	October 2010	
Organization & Service Identification for Red Deer District	List of legal and related services in Red Deer District	November 2010	
Data Collection for Grande Prairie District	Interviewing service providers and members of the public in Grande Prairie District	December 2010	
Data Analysis & Reporting	Report for Peace River District	December 2010	
Networking for Red Deer District	Key Contacts identification and visits in Red Deer District	January 2011	
Data Analysis & Reporting	Report for Grande Prairie District	February 2011	
Organization & Service Identification for Wetaskiwin District	List of legal and related services in Wetaskiwin District	February 2011	
Data Collection for Red Deer District	Interviewing service providers and members of the public in Red Deer District	February 2011	
Networking for Wetaskiwin District	Key Contacts identification and visits in Wetaskiwin District	February 2011	

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Task	Deliverable	Target Completion Date	Achieved
Organization & Service Identification for Edmonton District	List of legal and related services in Edmonton District	March 2011	
Data Analysis & Reporting	Report for Red Deer District	April 2011	
Networking for Edmonton District	Key Contacts identification and visits in Edmonton District	April 2011	
Data Collection for Wetaskiwin District	Interviewing service providers and members of the public in Wetaskiwin District	April 2011	
Data Analysis & Reporting	Report for Wetaskiwin District	June 2011	
Data Collection for Edmonton District	Interviewing service providers and members of the public in Edmonton District	June 2011	
Data Analysis & Reporting	Report for Edmonton District	August 2011	
Stage Five: Final Report (4-6 months)			
Database Development	Database of Mapping Info for all Districts	September 2011	
Data analysis & Reporting	Final Project Report	October 2011	